

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2782  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2006  
DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether prior approval and recognition are mandatory for distance education courses including degree/diploma/certificate courses being run by different States, Central and Deemed Universities under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether courses offered and approved/recognized by UGC and AICTE are not recognized by Distance Education Council;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to give wide publicity to such Universities and distance courses; and
- (f) if not, the basis on which the Distance Education Council is usurping such power of approval/recognition and action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the Council?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) & (b) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Act, 1985, empowers the University to promote the open university and distance education systems in the country and for the determination of standards of teaching, evaluation and research in such systems. Accordingly, Statute 28 framed under the IGNOU Act, 1985 for creation of Distance Education Council (DEC) and specifying its role, inter-alia, provides for maintenance of standards in the institutions offering distance education programmes and to prevent, through such measures as are considered appropriate, institutions from offering courses which do not conform to the standards laid down by the Council.
- (c) & (d) UGC, AICTE and DEC are different bodies having specific mandates. UGC and AICTE are responsible for coordination and determination of standards of general higher education and technical education respectively, whereas DEC is mandated for coordination and determination of standards in education through distance mode.
- (e) IGNOU has informed that the DEC, one of its authority, has put up on its website a list of universities/institutions along with other programmes approved by DEC for information for the general public.
- (f) Does not arise.